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THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The fissures and cracks are only of a local nature and they appear to have been caused by local subsidence in underground strata composed of their alternating layers of sand and clay of recent origin. The evidence does not indicate any possibility of major structural disturbance which could cause land-slide, earth-quake or any other catastrophic movements.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Are the Government aware of a news report that the fissures were due to the sinking of several wells?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : A separate question may be put.

DR. H. V. HANDE : Have the Government assessed the extent of damage caused by these fissures and have they instituted any remedial measures?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : There has not been much damage.

SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : Have fissures occurred in any other place in the district during the last few years?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I have no information.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Is it due to percolation of water and, if so, what steps do the Government intend to take to stop such percolation?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : It is due to the drying up of the irrigation tank in that area.

Movement of foodgrains

3-20 p.m. * 7 Q.—SRI M. SANKARALINGAM PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are any other restrictions on the movement of foodgrains in Kanyakumari district besides the one imposed by G.O. Ms. No. 3648, dated 31st December 1964; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) According to the Madras Paddy and Rice (Movement Control) Order, 1965, as subsequently amended, no person can transport or move more than 10 litres of paddy or rice (including broken rice) from one district to another or from one notified area in a district to a place outside that notified area within the district except under a permit to be issued by an authorized officer. It has also been laid down in the order that no transport or

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movement of paddy or rice will be allowed either into or from the Vilavancode taluk of Kanyakumari district except under a permit to be issued by an authorized officer.

திரு. எம். சங்கரலிங்கம் பிள்ளை : தலைவர் அவர்களே, அறுவடை நேரங்களில் கதிர்களைக் கொண்டுபோகும்போது இந்த சட்டத்தை பயன்படுத்தி ஒரு ஏக்கர் வரை பயிர் அறுவடையாகி அங்கிருந்து கொண்டுபோக தடை ஏற்பட்டிருப்பது அரசாங்கத்திற்குத் தெரியுமா ?

கனம் திரு. வி. ராமய்யா : அதுபோன்ற தகவல் எங்களிடத்தில் வரவில்லை.

திரு. எம். சங்கரலிங்கம் பிள்ளை : அதுபோன்று ஏற்பட்டதால் பல விவசாயிகள் அதனால் துன்பப்பட்டு ஒரு 'நோட்டிபைடு ஏரியா'விலிருந்து மற்ற 'நோட்டிபைடு ஏரியா'வுக்கு கொண்டு போகக் கூடாது என்ற தடையினால், அறுத்த கதிர்களைக் அடிப்பதற்குக் களத்திற்குக் கொண்டுபோகமுடியாமல் அங்கங்குள்ள விவசாயிகள் அரசாங்கத்திற்கு விண்ணப்பித்து இருக்கிறார்கள். அடுத்த அறுவடை வருகிறது. அரசாங்கம் அடுத்த ஆண்டிலாவது அந்த அறுவடை சமயத்தில் இதுபோன்ற தொல்லைகள் இல்லாமல் செய்ய ஏற்பாடு செய்யுமா ?

கனம் திரு. வி. ராமய்யா : கனம் அங்கத்தினர் என்ன சொல்கிறார்கள் ? வயலில்தானே அறுத்து அடிக்கவேண்டும் ?

திரு. எம். சங்கரலிங்கம் பிள்ளை : கன்னியாகுமரி மாவட்டத்தில் வயல்களில் தண்ணீர் அதிகமாக இருப்பதால் அங்கே கதிர்களை அடிக்க முடியாது. வயல்களுக்குப் பக்கத்திலுள்ள பகுதிகளில் களம் அமைத்து அங்கு கதிர்களைக் கொண்டுபோய்தான் அடிக்க வேண்டும். அப்படி அடிக்கக் கதிர்களைக் கொண்டுவருவதற்கு தடையேற்பட்டு இரண்டு மூன்று நாட்கள் அக்கதிர்கள் வயல்களிலேயே தேங்கிவிட்ட செய்தியை அந்த விவசாயிகள் விளக்கி அரசாங்கத்திற்குத் தந்தி அனுப்பியிருக்கிறார்கள். அந்த நிலைமை மீண்டும் வராமல் இருக்க அரசாங்கம் நடவடிக்கை எடுக்குமா ?

கனம் திரு. வி. ராமய்யா : கனம் அங்கத்தினர் அவர்கள் அதைக் குறித்து என் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவந்தால் அதை கலெக்டருக்கு அனுப்பி அதைக் கவனிக்க ஏற்பாடு செய்யலாம்.

(Two hon. Members rose from their seats and were seen standing.)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Two hon. Members should not stand at the same time.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR : Sir, I find from the newspapers that there has been some relaxation with regard to the movement of paddy in Coimbatore district from taluk to taluk. May I know whether there is any proposal to extend the same to other districts and relax the restrictions on movements from taluk to taluk?

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THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : This is in practice in almost all the districts. As far as internal movement is concerned, it is left to the discretion of the District Collectors where buying is going on. When once the District Collector is satisfied that the quantity required had been bought, he relaxes the restrictions. This is only so far as the movement within the district is concerned. I do not think such a position obtains in many districts. Even till recently Coimbatore was experiencing difficulty and the Collector has relaxed it only recently.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Are the Government aware that practically the restrictions are enforced not only between districts but even within the district from place to place. These restrictions are being strictly enforced in several districts, and such being the case, are these approved by the Government or done only by the Collectors at their discretion?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : Even if they do it at their discretion, Government know it and approve it.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : What are the districts in which these restrictions are imposed?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : If the hon. Member puts a separate question. I will answer it.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : In view of the fact that many of these check-posts are found to be useless, will the Government consider abolishing some of these check-posts?

THE HON. SRI M. RAMAIAH : Government consider them useful and the Government policy has become a success because of the effective working of these check-posts.

SRI K. ANBAZHAGAN : Sir, there are check-posts even within a distance of a furlong, for instance, one, on the side of the South Arcot district and another on the side of the Chingleput district in the Border. When the State is one, the districts seem to feel as separate, and is there any necessity for these numerous check-posts at short distances ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : Yes, Sir, difficulties occur in certain places where district borders are contiguous. This is not the common feature throughout the State.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Sir, are these procurements compulsory or voluntary?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : Government are buying all marketable surpluses.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Why not such posts, nearer to each other, as was stated by the hon. Member within a distance of a furlong, be removed forthwith?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : This question is being constantly looked into.

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Sri G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : How are the notified areas decided, and have the Government reviewed the position now and looked into the possibility of having movement restrictions only at the inter district level?

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH : The notified area is being constantly reviewed by the District Collectors, and wherever they feel these check-posts are necessary, they are introduced and later when the purpose has been served, they are removed.

Sri M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Sir, my question has not been answered. I want to know whether procurement is compulsory or voluntary?

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH : My answer was very clear, namely, 'the Government are buying all marketable surpluses'.

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It is normally voluntary but if the farmer takes advantage of the voluntary nature of it and does not part with the surplus in spite of the appeals made to him, then compulsory requisitioning will be resorted to.

Sri M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : How do the Government determine the marketable surplus ? Is it on the basis of the requirements of each person or family or what ? And what is the allowance made for the requirements of the people ? To my knowledge, though it is called voluntary, only force is used in the majority of cases for procurement and even threats in certain cases.

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH : Sir, we have fixed the marketable surplus at very much less than even 1/3 of the total produce. Regarding procurement, so far as the information that the Government have, it is done mostly on a voluntary basis. There may be here and there, as was pointed out by the Hon. the Chief Minister, certain cases where farmers take advantage of the voluntary nature of the procurement, and expecting to get high prices, refuse to part with the surplus. Therefore officers might have taken steps to see that the surplus is got.

Sri M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Sir, are the Government aware that in several places the prices of paddy and rice are much lower than the control prices. That being so, may I know why the farmers refuse to part with their surpluses?

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH : Well, Sir, they are certain farmers who go on holding the stock waiting for better times to get better prices, and such farmers refuse to part with the surplus.

Failure of crops due to drought

* 8 Q.—Sri M. SANKARALINGAM PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of acres in which crops have failed due to drought in Kanyakumari district during 1964–65;